

# OSCOLA REFERENCING

## Introduction to Oscola

- OSCOLA is a numeric referencing style published by the The Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities.
- It uses **footnotes** for in-text citations which are identified by a superscript number, usually at the end of a sentence after the full stop.

*Example:*

Cowan contends that there has been an erosion of human rights.

- The numbers in the text are then linked to the footnotes.

Note: The first time you cite a source, **full** details are given. Additional references to the same source are then provided in abbreviated form.

## Pinpointing

**Pinpointing** is when you wish to cite a specific page within a source. You include this page number at the end of the reference.

*Example:*

To pinpoint page 46 of a report that runs from pages 25-57

*R v Crawford* [2011] EWCA Crim 25, 46

## Further references to the same source

- The first time you cite a source, **full** details should be given.
- Subsequent references to the same source can then be **abbreviated** by briefly identifying the source and providing a cross-reference in brackets to the footnote which contains the full citation.
- *ibid.* means “in the same place”. If two or more consecutive references are from the same source, then they are cited using *ibid.*

*Example:*

<sup>1</sup> Robert Stevens, *Torts and Rights* (OUP 2007)

...

<sup>6</sup> Stevens (n 1) 110.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid* 271-78.

## Author names

In **footnotes** the author name(s) should be in the format FORENAME then SURNAME.

*Example:*

Tim Crawford, ...

In the **bibliography** this is reversed: SURNAME then INITIAL(S).

*Example:*

Crawford T, ...

In footnotes write the first author's name followed by "and others".

*Example:*

Samuel Topping and others, ...

In the bibliography list all of the authors.

*Example:* Topping S, Beck D and Wilson P, ...

### **More than 3 authors**

In **footnotes** write the first author's name followed by "and others".

*Example:*

Samuel Topping and others, ...

In the **bibliography** list all of the authors.

*Example:*

Topping S, Beck D, and Wilson P, ...

### **Short quotation**

Up to three lines:

- Include as part of the main text
- Use single quotation marks

*Example:*

Charles Rennie Mackintosh is one of the most influential Scottish architects. Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art 'heralded the birth of a new style in 20th century European Architecture'.<sup>1</sup>

### **Long quotations**

**Greater than 3 lines:**

- start on separate line
- indent
- no quotation marks
- if you refer to a quotation within a quotation then use double quotation marks  
use [...] to signify omission of words from the quotation

*Example:*

Charles Dickens' novel Bleak House opens with the following description to set the scene for his story:

London [...] Implacable November weather. As much mud in the streets as if the water had but newly retired from the face of the earth, and it would not be

wonderful to meet a Megalosaurus, forty feet long or so, waddling like an elephantine lizard up Holborn Hill.<sup>2</sup>

## How to reference a...

### Case

Order

- Party names (in *italics*)
- [Year] in square brackets
- Volume number
- Report series
- First page number of the report
- (Initials of the name of the court) in round brackets

*Example:*

*Barrett v Enfield LBC* [2001] 2 AC 550 (HL)

### Legislation

Order

- Short Title of Act
- Year
- Section
- (Subsection) in round brackets
- (Paragraph) in round brackets

*Example:*

Human Rights Act 1998 s 15(1)(b)

### EU Legislation

Order

- Type of legislation
- (EC) in round brackets
- Number and title
- [Year] in square brackets
- Details of publication

*Example:*

Council Regulation (EC) 139/2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (EC Merger Regulation) [2004] OJ L24/1, art 5

### Book

Order

- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title in *italics*
- (Edition, Publisher, Place Year) in round brackets

- Page(s)

*Example:*

JH Baker, *An Introduction to English Legal History* (4<sup>th</sup> edn, Butterworths, London 2002) 419-21.

## Chapter in a book

Order

- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title of chapter in single quotation marks
- In
- Editor(s) (eds)
- Book title in *italics*
- (Edition, Publisher, Place Year) in round brackets

*Example:*

I Brownlie, 'The Relation of Law and Power' in Bin Cheng and ED Brown (eds), *Contemporary Problems in International Law: Essays in Honour of Georg Schwarzenberger on his Eightieth Birthday* (Stevens and Sons, London 1988).

## Journal article

- Order
- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title of article in single quotation marks
- [Year] in square brackets
- Acronym for journal title
- First page
- Pinpointed page

*Example:*

Paul Craig, 'Constitutional Foundations, the Rule of Law and Supremacy' [2003] PL 92, 96

## Electronic journal article

Order

- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title of article in single quotation marks
- [Year] in square brackets
- Volume number issue (series)
- Acronym for journal title
- <URL>
- Date accessed

*Example:*

Graham Greenleaf, 'The Global Development of Free Access to Legal Information' [2010] 1 (1) EJLT <<http://ejlt.org//article/view/17>> accessed 27 July 2010

## Conference paper

### Order

- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title of paper in single quotation marks
- (Conference Name, Place, Date) in round brackets

### Example:

Ben McFarlane and Donal Nolan, 'Remedying Reliance: The Future Development of Promissory and Propriety Estoppel in English Law' (Obligations III Conference, Brisbane, July 2006).

## Newspaper article

### Order

- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title of article in single quotation marks
- Title of newspaper in *italics*
- (Place, Date) in round brackets
- Page number

### Example:

Simon Cunningham, 'Custody Death Raises Questions' *The Irish News* (Belfast, 15 June 2011) 18

## Website

### Order

- Author initial(s) or firstname followed by surname
- Title in single quotation marks
- Type of document and Year
- <URL>
- Date accessed

### Example:

Shami Chakrabarti, 'The End of Innocence' (Lecture at the Centre for Public Law in Cambridge 2004) <<http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/resources/articles>> accessed 16 August 2011

## Bibliography

### Format

- The bibliography may be divided into sections, for example legislation, cases, books, journal articles, websites etc.
- Each section should be arranged in alphabetical order by author's surname.
- The surname comes first, followed by initial(s).
- No comma is required until after the final initial.
- Note that forenames are not used.

- If citing several works by the same author, cite in chronological order starting with the oldest.

*For more information, please download the OSCOLA guide from  
[http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/published/OSCOLA\\_4th\\_edn.pdf](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/published/OSCOLA_4th_edn.pdf)*